

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6765

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SUVA UNN

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, NZ

SUBJECT: NZ PM MULDOON VISIT IMPROVES RELATIONS WITH ROK

REF: SEOUL 2968 (DTG 220713Z APR 76) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NZ PRIME MINISTER MULDOON TOLD ROK NEQ ZEALAND WOULD NOT IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA UNTIL DPRK TAKES STEPS TO REDUCE TENSION, WARNED OF SOVIET EXPANSION, CALLED ROK AN IMPORTANT SYMBOL OF RESOLUTE REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO AGGRESSION AND EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR ASTONISHING ROK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FACE OF NK THREAT. MULDOON SIGNED ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND WAS ASKED BY PRESIDENT PAK TO CONVEY TO PRC LEADERS ROK APPEAL FOR CHINESE TO DISSUADE NORTH KOREA FROM INCREASING
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TENSION IN KOREA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN VISIT WHICH WAS APPARENTLY SHORT ON SUBSTANTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER ROBERT D. MULDOON AND THE ROK MANAGED TO GET A GREAT DEAL OF POLITICAL MILEAGE OUT OF HIS FIVE DAY STAY IN SOUTH KOREA. ACCORDING TO NEW ZEALAND EMBOFF, GENERAL TENOR OF MULDOON'S CONVERSATIONS WITH ROK LEADERS WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF ROK POSITION.

2. MULDOON, INTER ALIA, EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET IMPERIALISM AND ATTACHED IT STRONGLY IN HIS CONVERSATIONS, AS WELL AS IN HIS PUBLIC UTTERANCES. DURING ONE-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 21 MULDOON ALSO SAID THAT NEW ZEALAND PROPOSES TO "TAKE NO STEPS TO COME CLOSE TO NORTH KOREA UNTIL THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE FOR THE DEESCALATION OF TENSION AND THE FINAL REUNIFICATION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA." HE ALSO SAID, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION (SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED IN SUBSTANCE BY NEW ZEALAND EMBOFF) THE FOLLOWING THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE A MOVE IN THE U.S. CONGRESS TOWARD A MORE ACTIVE U.S. INTERNATIONAL ROLE, PARTICULARLY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONS. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THOSE IN THE U.S. CONGRESS WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN OPPOSING ACTIVE AMERICAN GLOBAL ROLE WOULD NO LONGER BE IN CONGRESS AFTER UPCOMING U.S. ELECTIONS AND THAT BY NEXT YEAR "YOU WILL SEE THAT GREAT COUNTRY ASSUMING THE ROLE WHICH ONLY THAT COUNTRY CAN PLAY, OFFSETTING THE GROWING THREAT OF THE SOVIET UNION WHICH, IN MY VIEW, REPRESENTS THE MOST MENANCING THREAT IN TODAY'S WORLD."

3. MULDOON SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY PRESIDENT PAK CHONG-HUI TO CONVEY A MESSAGE TO THE PRC LEADERSHIP DURING HIS VISIT TO PEKING LATER IN THE MONTH SUGGESTING THAT A PRC ROLE IN DISSUADING NORTH KOREA FROM INCREASING TENSION IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE. HE WAS ALSO QUOTED BY PRESS AS SAYING HE WOULD CONVEY PRC REACTION TO ROKG THROUGH ROK EMBASSY WELLINGTON.

4. DURING VISIT MULDOON AND ROK FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-CHIN SIGNED REVISED TRADE AGREEMENT WHICH REPORTEDLY PROVIDES FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, INCLUDING LONG-TERM CONTRACTS ON TRADE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND AN AGREEMENT ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHIP CALLS AT EACH OTHERS PORTS. ACCORDING TO NZ EMBOFF CONCRETE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED ECONOMIC OR TRADE CONTACT WERE NOT DEVELOPED DURING MULDOON VISIT, ALTHOUGH POSSIBILITY OF RELAXATION OF ROK RESTRICTIONS ON BEEF IMPORTS IN EFFORT TO KEEP PRICE DOWN WAS MENTIONED BY EPB DIRECTOR NAM TOK-U AND COULD, IF IT MATERIALIZES, PROVIDE MARKET FOR NEW ZEALAND BEEF.

5. ROK RECEPTION FOR MULDOON WAS IMPRESSIVE BUT NOT ELABORATE.

ROKGS CONSIDERED LETTING SCHOOLS OUT DURING ARRIVAL SO THERE WOULD BE LARGE CROWDS TO GREET VISITING PM BUT DECIDED AGAINST IT, ACCORDING TO NZ EMBOFF, ON GROUNDS THAT MASSIVE OUTPOURING MIGHT SEEM CONTRIVED AND WAS NOT IN KEEPING WITH ROK EMPHASIS ON AUSTERITY AND DILIGENCE, WHICH WOULD BE BETTER SERVED IF STUDENTS STUCK TO THEIR BOOKS. MULDOON HAD TWO PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT PAK AS WELL AS MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER AND SIGNATURE OF ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. ROK HELICOPTERS CONVEYED HIM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS INTO CAPITOL GROUNDS, NORMALLY OFF LIMITS TO AIRCRAFT BECAUSE OF PROPINQUITY TO BLUE HOUSE.

6. EDITORIAL TREATMENT OF VISIT WAS FAIRLY EXTENSIVE, AND EMPHASIZED SIMILARITY OF MULDOON GOVERNMENT AND PAK GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON NEED TO RESIST COMMUNISM, AS WELL AS NOTING TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP OF TWO COUNTRIES.

7. AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT, PM MULDOON AND PRESIDENT PAK SIGNED COMMUNIQUE WHICH SAID, INTER ALIA, THAT BOTH LEADERS REGRETTED 30TH UNGA ADOPTION OF TWO INCONSISTENT KOREA RESOLUTIONS, EXCHANGES OF THIS SORT WERE UNPRODUCTIVE AND EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD PRESERVING PEACE AND PRODUCING WORKABLE SOLUTION WHICH COULD BE SUPPORTED OR AGREED ON BY PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED. COMMUNIQUE ALSO SAID PRESIDENT PAK ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND.
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